

REMARKS

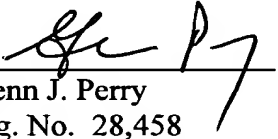
Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 6, and 12-25 have been canceled. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 26 and 27 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 11 are independent claims.

In the Office Action dated May 23, 2002, the Examiner rejected Claims 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Muncheryan (U.S. Patent No. 4,979,180) in view of DeRossett, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,298,717), Kumar (U.S. Patent No. 5,227,013) and Roland et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,792,287). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The indication by the Examiner of allowable subject matter set forth in Claims 1-5, 7-11, 26 and 27, is noted with appreciation. In this regard, and in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant has canceled Claims 6, and 12-25 in compliance with the Examiner's directions set forth in the outstanding Office action. Applicant respectfully submits that for these reasons, independent Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 11, as well as their respective dependent claims, are allowable.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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